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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

October 22, 2003

Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Attached is a copy of an OP-ED piece from the Sunday, October 19, 2003 edition of the *New York Times* written by Iyad Alawi, the president of the Iraqi Governing Council for the month of October.

This highly-significant article calls for the call up of the Iraqi Army at least up to the mid-officer level, with appropriate vetting by the Coalition and the Iraqi Interior Ministry, as a way of more quickly relieving the burden on American troops and replacing them with Iraqi soldiers who have credibility and legitimacy with the Iraqi people.

Since it appears that, despite the adoption of a new UN resolution on Iraq, there are unlikely to be large numbers of additional foreign troops made available for duty with the Coalition, Mr. Alawi's proposal strikes me as worthy of serious consideration.

I would welcome an opportunity to discuss this matter with you personally and, in any event, would solicit your views on this matter.

Sincerely,



Carl Levin
Ranking Member

Enclosure